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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 00658 131025Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /075 W
----------005190 131030Z /10
P 130945Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4191

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, KE
SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE ON NGUGI DETENTION

REF: NAIROBI 0273

1. NGUGI DETENTION NOW MATTER OF RECORD AS LATEST ISSUE OF OFFICIAL GAZETTE STATES HE DETAINED UNDER PUBLIC SECURITY ACT.

2. NYT AND NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH PAO EITHER FOR POSSIBLE EMBASSY COMMENT ON NGUGI WA THIONGO'S ARREST, RELATING THIS TO ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RIGHTS STAND, OR SIMPLY FOR GUIDANCE. THEY HAVE THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM PUSHING STORY SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY CONCERNED THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT MAY JEOPARDIZE THEIR POSITIONS HERE BUT IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE SOON IN COVERING ARREST BECAUSE OF NGUGI'S STATURE AMONG AFRICAN WRITERS.

3. THOUGH EMBASSY HAS THUS FAR NOT COMMENTED, WE PREPARED TO STATE AT APPROPRIATE TIME THAT QTE THIS IS OF COURSE AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR KENYANS TO DECIDE AND NOT PROPERLY THE CONCERN OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. YET, IN THIS INTER-RELATED AND INTER-DEPENDENT WORLD SUCH EVENTS INEVITABLY RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION. THE EMBASSY WOULD HOPE THAT THIS CASE BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE GUIDED
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 00658 131025Z

THIS COUNTRY AND WHICH HAVE EARNED IT MUCH ESTEEM UNQTE.

4. IT OCCURS THAT GIVEN CORRESPONDENTS' CONCERN ABOUT PURSUING THIS STORY TOO VIGOROUSLY IN KENYA BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY THEIR CREDENTIALS HERE MAY BE WITHDRAWN, IT NOT UNLIKELY THIS WILL BE PURSUED BY THEIR COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON. FURTHER, HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS THIS MATTER INCREASE THE

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POSSIBILITY THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MAY GET QUESTIONS. WE
SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ABOVE LINE OF
RESPONSE FOR ITSELF AS WELL AS FOR EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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SAS ID: 3781150
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE ON NGUGI DETENTION
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, KE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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20 Mar 2014
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